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March 24, 1997

William F. Caton
Acting Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Report of Ex Parte Communication
MM Docket No. 87-268

Dear Mr. Caton

This letter is written pursuant to Section 1.1206(a) of the Commission's Rules. On March 21, 1997, the enclosed letters to Chairman Hundt from Senator Moseley-Braun, Congressman Tom Barrett and Congressman Tim Roemer were transmitted to Chairman Hundt. On March 24, 1997, a copy of each of the three letters was delivered to Commissioner Quello, Commissioner Chong, Commissioner Ness, and the members of the Commission's staff listed below.

Two copies of each of the three letters are enclosed. Please place these materials in the ex parte files for MM Docket No. 87-268.

Very truly yours



J. Brian DeBoice

cc: Hon. Reed E. Hundt
Hon. James H. Quello
Hon. Rachelle B. Chong
Hon. Susan Ness
Julius Genachowski
Marsha MacBride
Jane Mago
David Siddall
Saul Shapiro



CAROL MOSELEY-BRAUN
ILLINOIS

COMMITTEES
BANKING, HOUSING, AND
URBAN AFFAIRS
FINANCE
SPECIAL AGING

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3002

March 21, 1997

Mr. Reed E. Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
Room 814--Office of the Chairman
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Hundt:


Enclosed is an inquiry I received from my constituent, Norman Shapiro, President of Weigel Broadcasting Company.

Mr. Shapiro owns a low power television station in Chicago. He is concerned that the FCC could eliminate his station in the process of allocating additional frequencies to full-power broadcasters for digital television.

I recently joined a number of my colleagues in sending a letter to the FCC on behalf of all low power television stations. Mr. Shapiro's letter provides an excellent example of a specific station that could be affected, and I urge you to consider his comments.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Yours truly,


Carol Moseley-Braun
United States Senator

CMB:sbc



March 18, 1997

The Honorable Carol Mosley-Braun
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Advanced Television Systems, N.M.D. No. 87-186

Dear Senator Mosley-Braun:

I am writing to express my concern that the FCC's pending digital television rule making proceeding might result in the displacement of low power television ("LPTV") station WBBT licensed to Weigel Broadcasting Co. ("Weigel"), in the City of Chicago.

Weigel's Channel 23 LPTV station provides many important public benefits to Chicago area viewers. Channel 23 broadcasts over 80 hours of minority and foreign language programming each week. These programs contain a great deal of news and public affairs, are often locally produced, and provide much needed public service information to the members of more than 15 discrete minority and ethnic groups in the Chicago area.

Channel 23 also broadcasts 15 hours per week of live, locally-produced business and general news and public affairs programming in the English language. This programming is very important to Chicago area viewers. In addition, Channel 23 broadcasts a live, locally produced half-hour children's educational program ("The Homework Show") each weekday. This program was developed in cooperation with the Chicago Board of Education and provides substantial educational benefits to Chicago area school children.

In these and other respects, the public service currently provided to Chicago area residents by Weigel's Channel 23 LPTV station is of great value. In many respects, this service would be irreplaceable, if lost. I urge you to take all possible steps to preserve the indispensable broadcast public service provided to Chicago area viewers by Weigel's low power Channel 23 station.

Sincerely,

Norman H. Chanizo
President

NHS:bl

via fax

3/21/97 12:06:11 FROM AVT Fax
03 21/97 FRI 12:58 FAX

PO: 2606

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THOMAS M. BARRETT
U.S. Representative

COMMITTEE ON
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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-4005

March 20, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing about the effect of the FCC's rule making concerning digital television (Advanced Television Systems, MM Docket number 87-286) on low power television (LPTV) stations.

Milwaukee enjoys unique, culturally-diverse LPTV service. Channel 46 provides Spanish language programming 24 hours a day, including news, public affairs and local public service programs. Milwaukee has no other Spanish language television or radio stations, so Channel 46 provides a unique cultural service for Milwaukee's Spanish-speaking residents. Channel 66 provides cultural and ethnic programming in several languages, as well as live English language news and educational programming.

I understand that thousands of LPTV station operators are concerned that proposed FCC rules concerning the allocation of television spectrum to facilitate the transition to digital television will adversely affect as many as 40% of LPTV stations and might force some of these stations off the air. I know that the FCC is aware of the valuable and often unique services provided by LPTV stations. I hope that every effort consistent with the goal of facilitating a timely transition to digital television will be made to ensure that LPTV stations and the viewers they serve are not disenfranchised.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tom Barrett
Member of Congress

TB:ew

TIM ROEMER
35 DISTRICT, INDIANA

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND
EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1403

March 21, 1997

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The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt,

I am writing to express concerns about the rulemaking process in the transition to digital television and how it affects low power broadcast stations. I understand the Federal Communications Commission is in the final stages of rulemaking on this issue.

The President of Weigel Broadcasting, which owns two low power stations in South Bend, Indiana, has expressed his deep concern to me that the expected rulemaking may shut down the two stations in South Bend (WBND-LP Channel 58 and W69BT). These two stations make up the only ABC affiliate in the region and the sole source of United Paramount programming.

Not long ago, the loss of the only ABC affiliate in the region was cause for widespread concern in my district, and the return of ABC national news, sports and general programming was welcomed when Weigel began broadcasting. ABC programming is, after all, one of the few nationally available commercial networks.

Although I understand that low-power stations have always been "second tier" in spectrum access, I urge the FCC to take whatever steps necessary to lessen the impact of the digital transition on low-power stations such as those in South Bend. The programming they offer is important, too.

In resolving these complexities, I sincerely hope the FCC will use whatever means at its disposal to consider the full range of needs of the viewing public, and do everything possible to avoid the forced closing of low-power stations. As always, I appreciate your time and attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Tim Roemer
Member of Congress

TR/jsc